

STATEMENT OF DOROTHY DARE

Baltimore, Md.

I joined the Communist Party in July 1929. What I knew about the CPO came from a song which ended with the determination "to hang Jay Lovestone on a sour apple tree."

During my membership in the party I criticized it for being sectarian, without myself realizing that the sectarianism of the Party was due to the ultra-left tactical line and not, as I then thought, to the fact that we did not lead enough struggles.

Mainly I had disagreements on the way the tactical line was applied (or not applied) or else I criticized isolated instances of ultra-left actions; united front from below; exposing the social-fascists; splitting reformist-led unemployed movements; building unemployed organizations which endorsed the C. P.; creating "red" and "revolutionary" unions which endorsed the CP; or having too many unprepared demonstrations.

Despite these disagreements I carried out all party decisions as a loyal member. I was arrested several times for distributing TUUL leaflets at mill gates and served six weeks in the Washington workhouse after being arrested in a demonstration before the Japanese Embassy, even tho I did not think the slogan of driving out the Japanese diplomatic representatives, a sensible one.

Why did I do so? Because when one has confidence in the party, in one's right to criticise and correct, one is willing to carry out all decisions. After Hitler took power without a struggle I began to raise

questions. Was dual-unionism a good tactic in Germany when the CPG issued calls for general strikes and not a single factory responded? Was the united front from below such a good tactic since it was proven that the CPG did not succeed in winning over Social Democratic workers, despite the treachery of their leaders?

As I began to criticize the tactical line I became aware that democratic centralism existed in words but not in practice; that most comrades in the CP had been taught that the basis for membership was not only unity of principle and unity of action, but also unity of tactical views and opinions. To question the tactical line seemed like questioning the basic principles, to these comrades. I began to see before me the evils resulting from a lack of democratic centralism: low political level; irresponsibility; decisions remain on paper; membership fluctuation; bureaucratic leadership and a wrong tactical line. This, since changing conditions did not bring a corresponding change in tactics which can come only thru discussion and criticism.

My knowledge of the CPO being confined to the lies and slanders circulated in the Party, I could see no way out and was in a fair way of becoming thoroly demoralized.

I must confess that it was the party which set me on the road towards the CPO. I had expressed the view, in the course of a discussion, that Muste was a centrist and not a social-fascist. The section promptly elected an enlightenment committee and after some conversations on united front, social-fascism, dual-unionism, etc. I was told that I was conciliating with "Lovestoneism"! This was news to me. It was then that I began to read carefully the Workers Age and found the Party to be perfectly correct. My views were the views of the CPO.

I was expelled by the District Secretariat without even the formality of a hearing before the section committee or the membership.

This much the CPO has done for me—it has restored my confidence in Communism, in the cause of the working class. In joining the CPO I can't promise to set the Chesapeake Bay on fire. But I hope to do some effective work for the communist movement in this city—by working for the unity of the Communist Party on the basis of democratic centralism, against sectarianism, reformism and centrism. For a Leninist Communist Party that can do the job of ridding us of this bankrupt capitalist system.